

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

The Recreation Department continues to fulfill its mission of offering “Something for Everyone”. During the past year, the Recreation Department offered 924 programs and ran 60% of those classes. A total of 7,222 people participated in these programs and another 21,525 visited Morses Pond beach. Additionally, 850 children enjoyed both Camp Joey and Camp Quest during the summer. The Recreation non-tax impact program budget generated revenue of \$895,424. The direct program expenses were \$659,367 and the program covered an additional \$102,820 in shared costs such as building custodial expenses, program brochure production and mailing, credit card use bank fees, Medicare tax and software licensing fees. Of the remaining surplus, the Recreation Department had committed \$60,000 to the Town’s General Fund and \$30,000 will be evenly distributed between the Recreation Department Scholarship Fund and the SUMMERTIME Concert/Special Events Fund. Last year, the Recreation Department provided almost \$25,000 in scholarship money to Wellesley children. The remaining surplus will also be directed to the General Fund.

The Recreation Department was proud to be able to offer the 29th year of the SUMMERTIME concerts held on the Town Hall Green. Concerts are held on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer and are funded by donations from individuals and local businesses and organizations. We also held two special events, the second annual Spring Thaw which included an egg hunt and children’s entertainment, and an outdoor movie night. Movie night was held on the lawn at Warren and was sponsored in conjunction with the Wellesley Mother’s Forum and the Wellesley Youth Commission who generously donated to the cost of running the event.

Recreation Commission members continued their active involvement with a number of committees. Jim Conlin worked with the Community Preservation Committee, Mary Scardino and Katherine Rooks with the Comprehensive Plan, Carl Fleischer and Katherine Rooks with the Interboard Advisory Committee, and Carl Fleischer and Shelly Ironside with the Playing Fields Task Force. Recreation also assumed sponsorship of the Playing Fields Task Force and formed a subcommittee, which revised and updated the existing field use policy. Additionally, Carl Fleischer was involved with the Morses Pond Study Committee, which developed a management program for the pond and presented it at the Annual Town Meeting. The plan was co-sponsored by NRC and DPW.

In February, the Recreation Commission went before the ZBA and was successful in lifting some of the parking restrictions at Warren. This change allows for greater flexibility in programming.

Recreation Department staff continued to bring well rounded programming to town residents. Some of the most popular programs are in children’s sports, dance and science, and in adult dance, exercise, bridge and cooking. The department was especially pleased to offer a special population basketball program at Warren. The Warren building expanded programming to a seven-day week schedule. Program suggestions are always welcome as are those people with special skills or interests who would like to teach a class.

The Commission would like to thank our staff for their efforts and we especially thank the residents of Wellesley for their support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Fleischer, Chairperson
James Conlin
Shelly Ironside
Katherine Rooks
Mary Scardino